

Notice to Employers, Educational Leaders, and Community Leaders

High School Equivalency is changing in Montana

Spread the word!

Beginning on January 1, 2014 the Montana High School Equivalency Diploma will be based on the HiSET™ tests from Educational Testing Service instead of the GED® test from GED Testing Service.

| What will be Different? | What will be the Same? |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name of the test will be HiSET™ (pronounced ‘high set’) instead of GED®.• Transcripts will show HiSET™ Scores.• Standard scores on the transcript will have the same meaning but be shown on a 0 to 20 scale instead of 200 to 800 scale.• For the short term, transcripts may show combined scores with GED®.• Agencies or individuals can purchase vouchers at www.hiset.org to support candidate testing fees.• All test registration will be online. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The diploma granted will still be the Montana High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma approved by the Board of Education and signed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.• The credentialing test will still assess math reading, writing, science, and social studies.• The test will still take about 7 hours.• Test takers must score better than 40% of what high school seniors score nationally in order to pass the HSE. |

Background:

It's a new world in high school equivalency. It is the first time that more than one high school equivalency test has been available to states. Even though high school equivalency has always been based on state certification, most people have referred to GED® generically. Many states, including Montana, conducted a Request for Information to select a high school equivalency test. We're all trying to remember to say "high school equivalency" instead of "GED."

How You Can Help

- Please recognize that an applicant with passing scores on the HiSET exam is a qualified high school equivalency graduate.
- If it's possible, please change "GED" on your application forms to "High School Equivalency" or "(HSE)". If forms cannot be changed at this time please be sure admissions staff and human resources personnel understand that HiSET™ graduates have a legitimate high school equivalency diploma.
- If you have questions, contact Katie Spalinger, administrator of the High School Equivalency at mbowles@mt.gov or Marianne Schomaker, High School Equivalency Specialist at mschomaker@mt.gov or your local adult education director.

Thank you for helping Montana men and women of all ages who have demonstrated their high school equivalency skills and taken an important step toward career and college success.

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Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

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